



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

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### CALL FOR PARTICIPATION NOMINATIONS AND COMMENTS FOR SEARCH COMMITTEES

The search committees for a  
new dean of the Faculty of  
Medicine and a chief librarian  
would welcome your comments  
and nominations. The deadline  
for medicine is Sept. 10 and  
for chief librarian Sept. 17.  
To participate visit [www.  
provost.utoronto.ca/public/  
pdadc/2010\\_to\\_2011.htm](http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/public/pdadc/2010_to_2011.htm).

[WWW.NEWS.UTORONTO.CA/  
BULLETIN.HTML](http://WWW.NEWS.UTORONTO.CA/BULLETIN.HTML)

BACK TO SCHOOL  
New year, new offerings  
— page 6-7

AUGUST 24, 2010 64th year, number 2

# the Bulletin

## HEAVENS ABOVE



U of T's new teaching planetarium will provide students with some spectacular and detailed views of the night sky and other planets and galaxies.

## Employee survey coming this fall

BY ELAINE SMITH

With assistance from the renowned Ipsos Reid polling organization, U of T will be conducting its second Speaking Up employee survey this October.

"Our last Speaking Up survey was launched four years ago and it provided us with valuable information about employees' needs and concerns," said Professor **Angela Hildyard**, vice-president (human resources and equity). "Much can change in four years, however, and we want to obtain a more current picture. We have chosen Ipsos Reid to assist us because of their stellar reputation for integrity and their expertise in thorough, systematic analysis of data."

The survey will be distributed by email to staff and faculty, including sessional instructors and clinical faculty, two groups that were not included last time. All responses will be confidential and there will be no way for U of T to link individuals with their responses. Mail-in paper versions of the survey and other mechanisms to facilitate the participation of those without access to a computer will also be made available.

"Because of the expertise U of T has on hand, it could potentially conduct the survey on its own, but it's very important to have a third-party involved

... **EMPLOYEE** ON PAGE 4

## U of T takes on Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's University Challenge

BY ELAINE SMITH

**Bragging rights** could be on the line Oct. 3 as the university hosts the annual Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure for the first time.

The five-kilometre run and one-kilometre walk raise funds for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, an organization that sponsors numerous U of T breast cancer research projects. The foundation hopes the campus locations will increase university participation and has issued a challenge to universities across Ontario to see who can raise the most money for breast cancer research. Faculty, staff, students and

alumni taking part in the Toronto and Mississauga runs are eligible.

"Many members of the university community, from faculty to staff, have participated in previous Runs," said Sandra Palmaro, Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation — Ontario Region president and CEO. "This new home will make it easier for them to participate again and it will open up participation to other members of the university community."

The university that raises the most money for breast cancer research will win the University Challenge Cup.

... **U OF T** ON PAGE 4

## Soldiers' Tower restoration begins

BY JENNIFER LANTHIER

More than 85 years of wind, rain, ice and snow have battered the Soldiers' Tower but work is now underway to repair and restore the landmark memorial.

"The Soldiers' Tower is an iconic symbol of the university but it's also one of the rare and special monuments that speaks to all Canadians," said **Rivi Frankle**, assistant vice-president (alumni and stakeholder relations). "We must preserve it for future generations."

The cost of the restoration is \$1.8 million, Frankle said. For four summers, the crenellations, arches, buttresses and quoins of the 143-foot

tower will be girded with scaffolding as repairs continue, overseen by Facilities and Services. The four distinctive gothic spires are among the most urgent priorities; an architectural assessment revealed they have shifted from their original positions. But repairs are also needed to the upper masonry and parapet stonework. A fundraising appeal, initiated by the Soldiers' Tower committee and matched by the university, has raised \$800,000 but another \$1 million is needed.

The committee, a subcommittee of the U of T Alumni Association, has been the driving force behind the restoration. The Soldiers' Tower

... **SOLDIERS'** ON PAGE 4



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Campus will soon ...

**be flush with** students finding their way about, purchasing textbooks, clustering at coffee stops and chatting in the corridors. Yes, it's almost time for the academic year to get underway.

With luck, you are refreshed from some time away during the summer and (almost) as energetic as the young folks who are here for inspiration and education (and some fun, too).

In our back-to-school issue, we feature some of the ways our faculty will seek to engage their minds (see pages 6-7) and teach softer skills, such as leadership. We also take a look at the ways the U of T Bookstore is keeping pace with the times. For additional inspiration, there's the tale of three computer science students who have developed some very practical software that could help their peers waiting in T-card lineups (see page 8).

Of course, summertime doesn't slow many of our students down. The volunteers with the renowned summer mentorship program readily gave their time to helping younger students less fortunate than they (see page 8).

Students weren't the only ones giving of their time to help those who need a helping hand. Professor **Shafique Virani** has lent his energies to both a pre-school and a children's camp abroad (see page 9).

To lend a helping hand this fall, there's the upcoming Run for the Cure (see page 1), taking place Oct. 3 on our campuses in both Toronto and Mississauga. The money raised will go towards breast cancer research and many of our own researchers will benefit. September's Breakfast With the Bulletin (see page 3) will highlight a couple of these researchers and faculty and staff are invited.

So, enjoy this glimpse of the school year ahead, along with a few peeks at the summer we're leaving behind. And sneak in a bit of relaxation before it's too late.

Cheers,

*Elaine*

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DESIGN/PRODUCTION: Diana McNally

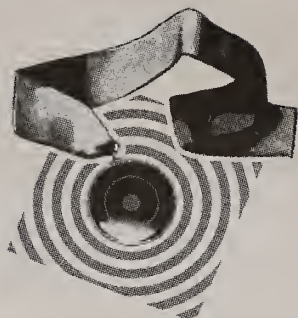
STAFF WRITER: Jennifer Lanthier • Kelly Rankin

ADVERTISING/DISTRIBUTION: Mavic Palanca • mavic.palanca@utoronto.ca

WEBSITE: www.news.utoronto.ca/bulletin.html

*The Bulletin* is printed on partially recycled paper. Material may be reprinted in whole or in part with appropriate credit to *The Bulletin*. Published twice a month, and once in July, August and December, by the Strategic Communications Department, 21 King's College Circle, University of Toronto, Toronto, M5S 3J3.

EDITORIAL ENQUIRIES: 416-978-7016 • DISTRIBUTION ENQUIRIES: 416-978-2106  
ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES: 416-978-2106 • Display advertising space must be reserved two weeks before publication date. FAX: 416-978-7430.



## AWARDS &amp; HONOURS

launched in 2006 to honour the outstanding work being done by thousands of Canadian organizations, communities, individuals and media who are engaged in the fields of mental health and addictions.

## U OF T SCARBOROUGH

**Marian Aslam**, an academic adviser in the Academic Advising and Career Centre, was one of two recipients of the Patrick Phillips Award for outstanding service and commitment by a staff member. The second recipient was **Scott Dutrisac**, technical director for the Leigha Lee Browne Theatre. The D.R. Campbell Merit Award for a person who enhances the quality of life on the campus went to student **Imran Kahn**, a former chair of the board of the Scarborough Campus Students Union. The Principal's Award for Faculty Teaching was awarded to Professor **Marc Fournier**, described as "more than a professor — he is an educator in the truest sense of the word." Professor **Andre Simpson** of physical and environmental sciences won the Principal's Award for Faculty Research and was lauded as "an investigator of the remarkable chemical diversity of the world around us." **Dwayne Pare** of psychology and **Amy Tsung** of biological sciences were this year's winners of the Graduate Student Teaching Award, while management students **Jimmy Mihajlov** and **Vitali Moussounov** were recipients of the Undergraduate Student Teaching Assistant Award. A celebration of distinguished service was held June 15 on the grounds of Miller Lash House.

COMPILED BY AILSA FERGUSON

## FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE &amp; ENGINEERING

Professor **Cristina Amon**, dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, has been named to the Most Important Hispanics in Technology list for 2010 by the American magazine *Hispanic Engineer & Information Technology*. Amon and the others named to the list were honoured at an awards dinner July 1 in Baltimore, Maryland. Those chosen for the list are women and men who demonstrated leadership on a broad front, in the workplace and in their communities. Full profiles of the 2010 Most Important Hispanics in Technology were featured in the spring edition of *Hispanic Engineer & Information Technology*, published in April.

## FACULTY OF ARTS &amp; SCIENCE

**Patricia Erickson**, an adjunct professor of sociology and criminology, is the winner of the 2010 National Award for Excellence in Leadership, given by the Kaiser Foundation in its National Awards for Excellence program. Erickson received the award at a May 13 event in Winnipeg for her outstanding contribution to promoting the philosophy and policy of harm reduction in Canada. The program was

## Kresge led the field in physical organic chemistry

BY AILSA FERGUSON

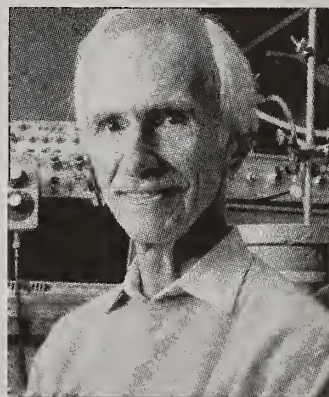
## Professor Emeritus Jerry

**Kresge**, considered a giant in the field of physical organic chemistry, died June 6 at the age of 83.

Kresge was born in Wilkes-Barre, Penn., and received his BA from Cornell University in 1949 and his PhD in 1953 from the University of Illinois.

As a Fulbright Scholar he attended University College, London, in 1953-54, before joining Purdue University as a research associate in 1954-55 and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1955 to 1957. He then spent three years as an associate chemist at Brookhaven National Laboratory before joining the faculty at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in 1960 as an assistant professor, progressing through the ranks to full professor in 1968.

In 1970-71 Kresge spent a sabbatical year at U of T and was persuaded to return to Toronto in 1974. He joined the chemistry department at U of T Scarborough, then Scarborough College as a full professor. Kresge was senior among an outstanding group of physical organic chemists at Scarborough, and with the additional presence of colleagues on the St. George campus, Toronto was arguably the Americas' premier centre for physical organic chemistry



during a 20-year span.

"Jerry was a central figure in developing modern approaches that placed organic chemistry among the quantitative physical sciences," recalled Professor Ronald Kluger. "I was a colleague whose work benefited from his insight and patience. He will be remembered fondly to those of us who had the good fortune to know him and learn from him."

Kresge conducted outstanding research on the mechanisms of organic reactions, now found in textbooks. With his wife Yvonne Chiang, who died in 2008, he published leading research on the chemistry of short-lived intermediates and of enols and enolates, work that required the use of fast-reaction methods, notably conventional and laser flash photolysis techniques. Although Kresge retired in 1992 he continued a vigorous program of research in his lab at Lash Miller Chemical Laboratories until 2007.

"The scientific results that he and Yvonne produced will enlighten every generation to come," Kluger said. "Their work is timeless, the truths that they found will remain a touchstone for unravelling the complexity of chemical reactions."

Kresge's accomplishments were recognized through numerous honours, among them Guggenheim and Killam fellowships and a National Science Foundation Senior Fellowship. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Chemical Institute of Canada and the recipient of the Syntex Award, the Morley Medal and the prestigious Ingold Lecture Award, among others. A special issue of the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry* was dedicated to him in 1999 and in 2010, volume 44 of *Advances in Physical Organic Chemistry* is dedicated to him as well.

"Jerry was someone who could convey his great passion and enthusiasm for science calmly and effortlessly," said Professor Jik Chin, a former student of his. "He was a thoughtful, sincere and kind person who could get full and immediate attention from his students and fellow scientists. I was very fortunate to have been a student in his class and later on his colleague."

"He was well liked and respected by all who knew him and will be deeply missed."

The top and sidebar art on the front page is composed of photographs of the sky taken above the University of Toronto.



## New innovations office launched

BY JENNIFER HSU

**The Innovations** Group (TIG) at U of T has changed its name to the Innovations and Partnerships Office (IPO) to describe the part of the vice-president (research) portfolio that now helps faculty members develop partnerships and assists them in disclosing their inventions.

"IPO helps recognize and realize the potential of innovations developed here at U of T by building meaningful relationships with members from the private, public and government sectors. Our new identity better reflects this mandate," said Professor **Peter Lewis**, IPO's acting assistant vice-president and U of T's associate vice-president (research).

TIG's primary function was to focus on commercialization. In this role, the office received and assessed disclosures, sought financial resources, helped translate ideas into products and services, marketed the technology and dealt with the legalities of making deals with commercialization partners.

All that activity, however, didn't allow for sufficient resources to direct towards partnerships — specifically business development

opportunities for researchers.

The creation of MaRS Innovation (MI), a member-driven commercialization engine, redefined the entire playing field.

U of T, as an MI member, has streamlined its commercialization efforts. IPO now receives disclosures and passes the unencumbered ones to MI for evaluation and, if accepted, for creation of a "deal team" of MI and IPO staff, governed by an agency agreement.

"As a result, some IPO employees will now 'walk the halls' and in time visit every U of T faculty, department and lab to inform and assist professors with the disclosure process," said Lewis. "More important, from 'walking the halls' we will expand our own awareness about the diverse research being done at U of T and will be better able to appropriately match professors to relevant partnership opportunities — the partnership piece of IPO."

By disclosing their inventions to IPO, professors could bring benefits to both global society and businesses and potentially reap financial gains. For more information visit [www.research.utoronto.ca/commercialization/](http://www.research.utoronto.ca/commercialization/).

## Breast cancer focus of Breakfast With *the Bulletin*

BY AILSA FERGUSON

Start the academic year off right by eating a good Breakfast — with *the Bulletin*.

The quarterly faculty-staff speaker series is back with a Sept. 21 event focusing on breast cancer research in conjunction with the upcoming CIBC Run for the Cure. U of T will host the Toronto run, with the start and finish lines located on King's College Circle. The City of Mississauga run will start and finish on the U of T's Mississauga campus.

The Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, organizer of the run, raises millions each year for breast cancer research and funds researchers at universities nationwide.

"Right here in Toronto, over \$20 million has been granted by the foundation to breast cancer researchers on U of T's faculty in the last decade alone," said President **David Naylor**.

Breakfast With *the Bulletin* will highlight some of this sponsored research by featuring Professors **Lori Bernstein** and **Ruth Heisey**. Bernstein is a neuropsychologist working with the Palliative Care & Cancer Survivorship Program at Princess Margaret Hospital

who studies the effects of chemotherapy on cognitive abilities. Heisey is a family practitioner at Women's College Hospital and a general practice oncologist at Princess Margaret Hospital. She is exploring breast cancer prevention and detection strategies.

The *Bulletin* team also hopes to have a breast cancer survivor address the audience.

"Learning more about the breast cancer research happening at U of T is fascinating," said **Elaine Smith**, editor of *the Bulletin*, "and hearing from a survivor should help us understand that the work being done isn't simply abstract laboratory work; it has a real impact."

The Breakfast With *the Bulletin* lecture series is designed to offer faculty and staff food for both body and mind while strengthening a sense of community on campus. The Sept. 21 event takes place in the Hart House Music Room with breakfast beginning at 7:30 a.m. and the program running from 8 to 8:45 a.m. It is free to all faculty and staff but reservations are required since space is limited. Reserve your space by sending an email request to [bulletin@utoronto.ca](mailto:bulletin@utoronto.ca) by Sept. 17.

## Honours pile up for Hugh Scully



Professor Hugh Scully of medicine is receiving the Canadian Medical Association's Medal of Service this month, one of many awards bestowed upon him.

BY JENNIFER LANTHIER

**It would take** a feature film or weighty biography to truly do justice to the life and accomplishments of Professor **Hugh Scully** — but that hasn't stopped his colleagues from trying.

The cardiovascular surgeon, health policy leader and pre-eminent medical adviser for motor sport recently became the first non-American appointed to the health policy and advocacy group of the American College of Surgeons. Tomorrow (Aug. 25), the Canadian Medical Association will award him its Medal of Service for "exceptional and outstanding contribution to the advancement of health care in Canada." And, in October, Scully will deliver the prestigious 2010 Bigelow Lecture at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress in Montreal before receiving the Canadian Cardiovascular Society's highest accolade: the Annual Achievement Award.

"Hugh Scully is a legendary figure, not just in cardiac surgery but in Canadian healthcare more broadly. We are fortunate that he continues to guide and inspire our students at the Faculty of Medicine," said President **David Naylor**. "Hugh has played a leading role in medicine and health policy development as a member of the council of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and as past president of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, the Ontario Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association."

Surgeons don't commonly lead medical associations but there is nothing common about Scully's career. As an intern in the 1960s he decided the training, compensation and scheduling for interns and residents needed to be improved and became founding president of PAIRO, the Professional Association of Internes (sic) and Residents of Ontario. He encountered more than a little resistance at first but persistence brought success.

"I still remember driving down the Don Valley after concluding negotiations that took the income from \$6,000 to \$12,000 in one year," he recalled.

That dogged determination to improve flawed or dangerous situations became one of the hallmarks of Scully's career. His persistent efforts to improve safety in motorsport led Scully to be the first physician inducted into the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame, having served as founding member and president of the Ontario Race Physicians, chair of the International Council of Motorsport Sciences (Indianapolis), medical director of the Formula One Grand Prix of Canada from 1978 to 1992 — and, since 1985, as medical director of the Indy car race in Toronto.

"When I started out in the late 60s one driver

out of seven was killed every year and now it's one in 268, at much higher speeds," he said. "Together with Professor **Sid Watkins**, we learned a tremendous amount about circuit design, run-off areas, barriers, the need for medical centres on site, the early transportation of casualties and the construction of the cars — but it seems what it took all the time was for a driver to be killed before something changed."

One of those drivers was a personal friend, Helmut Koinigg. In 1974, the Austrian driver was decapitated in an accident at a Formula One race.

"I had to identify his body, collect his things, speak to the team, call his wife and then spend the next few days recovering myself, trying to decide whether I would continue to try to make a difference," Scully said. "I continued, and I think we've made a tremendous impact — although it's still a dangerous sport."

Scully sees many parallels between the high performance sport of racing and the practice of surgery, pointing out both are performed in a situation of controlled risk, requiring intense focus and "absolute dependence on an integrated team." He has performed thousands of surgeries over the years while holding such titles as chief of staff, deputy surgeon-in-chief and senior cardiac surgeon at Toronto General Hospital. But there came a time when Scully had to step out of the operating room.

"I woke up on a Sept. 21 morning and I couldn't use my hands," said Scully.

"I had conducted a triple valve replacement the day before, but I couldn't use my hands.

Overnight Guillain-Barré syndrome had robbed him of almost all the strength and dexterity in his hands. It would be 22 months before he performed another surgery but throughout his rehabilitation he had the support of his three adult daughters and his wife, former National Ballet of Canada prima ballerina Vanessa Harwood, along with that of his colleagues.

"Happily I had teaching and all of these other policy things, and racing, so I couldn't get morbidly dejected. But I couldn't do buttons or use a knife and fork properly — and for somebody who loves to drive, I couldn't turn the ignition key," he said. "You go through a lot of emotional upset when what has defined you as a professional is something you can't do."

The experience reinforced something Scully has stressed with students for years.

"The health policy and teaching and racing all helped sustain me through that time," Scully said. "And I advise all my students and residents and fellows to be sure to have other interests in life beyond the thing they do every day."

"Hugh Scully is a legendary figure, not just in cardiac surgery but in Canadian healthcare more broadly. We are fortunate that he continues to guide and inspire our students at the Faculty of Medicine."

- President David Naylor



## CIBC Run for the Cure

CANADIAN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

### U OF T TAKES ON CANADIAN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION'S UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE; COMPETES AGAINST OTHER ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES TO RAISE RESEARCH FUNDS

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On Sunday October 3rd, Who Are You Running For?™



## Employee survey coming this fall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
to ensure all individual answers are confidential," said J.B. Aloy, associate vice-president in charge of employee research for Ipsos Reid in Toronto.

Ipsos Reid has extensive experience in designing and conducting employee surveys in both the public and private sectors. One of its major clients is the Ontario Public Service. "It's valuable to get feedback from people at all levels to get a picture of how they feel about the organization, their work, management practices and the direction the organization is going," Aloy said. "It's very

important for tracking progress so there is an efficient way to measure initiatives and plan for new ones."

The university is working closely with Ipsos Reid to determine the content of the survey. The final product will take less than 30 minutes to complete.

Hildyard said concerns raised by faculty and staff in the 2006 survey, particularly in the areas of workload, equity, communication and promotion, appointments and tenure were taken seriously by senior administrators. Working groups were created to make

recommendations to improve the experience of faculty and staff in these areas.

"We'll be able to use this data to benchmark ourselves against other universities in Canada and other public sector organizations," said Professor **Edith Hillan**, vice-provost (faculty and academic life). "It will provide us with a very effective way of determining our strengths and highlighting areas where there could be improvement. We strongly encourage all employees to participate so we get a more complete picture of U of T in 2010."

## U of T takes on Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's University Challenge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Last year's Toronto Run was the largest in Canada, drawing over 20,000 participants who raised more than \$4 million. Ontario Runs raised more than \$12 million in 2009, with 21 events held provincially.

"The University Challenge is new this year, but competition is a great motivator," said Mark Brogno, University Challenge co-ordinator. "Everyone enjoys being No. 1

and we're anticipating a variety of challenges, both within the universities and between universities and other organizations. Why not challenge the department located down the hall or students from another class?"

U of T chancellor **David Peterson** is the honorary chair of the Toronto run and he urges the entire U of T community to get involved.

"This is an opportunity for everyone at U of T — faculty,

staff, students and alumni — to make a difference," he said. "I suspect there aren't many people on this campus who don't have a connection with this horrible disease. I'm asking you to do your part — register, join a team, fundraise — you can make a difference."

Registering for the Run is easy: visit [www.cbcbf.org](http://www.cbcbf.org).

To organize a team for the University Challenge, please visit <http://www.runfortheure.com/site/>.

## Soldiers' Tower restoration begins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1  
Restoration Fund, inaugurated in 2002 by the late Irving Frankle and bolstered by a \$100,000 donation from Blake Goldring, has already played a critical role, said **Kathy Parks**, administrator, alumni committees. Urgent repairs have been made to the roof, rainwater disposal system and carillon bell chamber, as well as much-needed improvements to the interior.

The scaffolding that now blankets the tower will be taken down each year well before the Service of Remembrance on Nov. 11, Parks said.

The tower has seen a few changes over the years. Built by alumni in 1924 to honour

members of the university community killed during the First World War, it originally bore the names of 627 men and one woman. Another 557 names were added to the memorial archway after the Second World War. In 1927, the clock and a 23-bell carillon were added, with more bells added during the 1950s and 1970s, expanding the carillon to 51 bells that cover four octaves. And today, exhibits inside the tower include artifacts and memorabilia from subsequent conflicts and peacekeeping missions.

Despite the restoration, visitors can still make an appointment to view the

refurbished Memorial Room with its moving collection of portraits, photographs, medals and memorial books. Visits to the carillon have been suspended during repairs; however, tourists, staff, students and faculty were treated to a series of free concerts throughout July. Funded by The McLean Foundation, the recital series featured carillonneurs from around the world and was such a success, it will return this fall, said Parks.

To contribute to the restoration, please contact Parks at 416-978-0544 or contact [soldiers.tower@utoronto.ca](mailto:soldiers.tower@utoronto.ca) or [www.giving.utoronto.ca](http://www.giving.utoronto.ca).

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# Genes that help *Salmonella* cause disease uncovered

BY PAUL CANTIN

**U of T researchers** have uncovered three genes in the *Salmonella* bacteria critical for it to cause disease and withstand antibiotic treatment and may hold the key to improved disease treatment.

The study was published in July in the journal *Molecular Cell* and conducted in partnership with laboratories headed by Dr. Michael Ibbá at Ohio State University and Dr. Ferric Fang at the University of Washington in Seattle. The team found that three bacterial genes called *poxA*, *yjeK* and *efp* work together to protect the bacterial cell from stresses it encounters during infection and antibiotic treatment. Mice infected with *Salmonella* strains lacking any one of these genes do not get sick. Even more crucial is the discovery that these *Salmonella* strains are also highly sensitive to treatment with a variety of antibiotics and disinfectants.

"*Salmonella* continues to be a major source of food poisoning in North America. In the past few years we have seen numerous recalls of food products including a major recall of peanut products just two years ago and a current out-

break in Canada resulting in the recall of headcheese," said Professor **William Navarre** of the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Molecular Genetics and lead author of the study.

"We now aim to develop drugs that can inactivate *poxA*, *yjeK* or *efp*. By preventing these bacteria from responding appropriately to stress, we predict we will be able to prevent bacterial disease and decrease their resistance to antibiotics. We're excited by the fact these genes exist in other bacteria that cause disease including *E. coli* so our strategy may work in cases beyond *Salmonella*."

The three genes are critical for bacterial resistance to chemical stress. "Despite their small size bacteria are actually quite sophisticated" said Navarre, "*Salmonella* and *E. coli* bacteria grown in a mild amount of disinfectant or antibiotics are able to make adjustments so that they can survive without too much of a problem. In order to do this they must be able to detect that they are in trouble and activate the genes necessary to make the appropriate changes to their metabolism and cell structure.

"We are finding that *Salmonella* lacking *poxA*, *yjeK* or *efp* are unable to cause disease because they cannot withstand attack from the various immunity factors present in the mouse. Many of those factors attack the membrane of the bacterial cell and we believe that without *poxA*, *yjeK* or *efp* that the *Salmonella* becomes easy prey because it can't respond to the damage."

The research team screened thousands of *Salmonella* bacteria for variants with altered resistance to certain antimicrobial compounds. Several of the identified variants had defects in either the *poxA* or *yjeK* genes. Using genetic engineering the researchers removed the *poxA* and *yjeK* genes from normal *Salmonella* cells. These newly constructed variants were also unable to cause disease in mice and were sensitive to a wide number of antibiotics. It was subsequently found that these two genes were working with the third gene, *efp*. The *efp* gene codes for a protein called "elongation factor P" or EF-P that allows other genes necessary for stress resistance to work properly. EF-P carries out its function by mimicking another molecule called tRNA that plays a role in the synthesis of bacterial proteins.

# Prejudice has lingering effects

BY APRIL KEMICK

**Aggression.** Overeating. Inability to focus. Difficulty making rational decisions. New research out of the University of Toronto Scarborough shows prejudice has a lasting negative impact on those who experience it.

"Past studies have shown that people perform poorly in situations where they feel they are being stereotyped," said Professor **Michael Inzlicht** of psychology, who led the study published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. "What we wanted to do was look at what happens afterwards. Are there lingering effects of prejudice? Does being stereotyped have an impact beyond the moment when stereotyping happens?"

In order to determine whether negative stereotyping in a particular situation had lasting effects, Inzlicht's team performed a series of tests. First, they placed participants in situations where they had to perform a task in the face of negative stereotyping. After the participants were removed

from the prejudicial situation, researchers measured their ability to control their aggression, eat appropriate amounts, make rational decisions and stay focused.

Their results show that prejudice and stereotyping have lingering adverse impacts.

"Even after a person leaves a situation where they faced negative stereotypes, the effects of coping with that situation remain," Inzlicht said. "People are more likely to be aggressive after they've faced prejudice in a given situation. They are more likely to exhibit a lack of self-control. They have trouble making good, rational decisions. And they are more likely to overindulge on unhealthy foods."

In one portion of the study, researchers had a group of women write a math test. They told the women this test would determine whether or not they were capable and smart in math, subtly injecting stereotypes about women and math skills "into the air," said Inzlicht. A separate group of women wrote the same test, except this group was given

support and coping strategies to deal with the stress they'd face when writing the test.

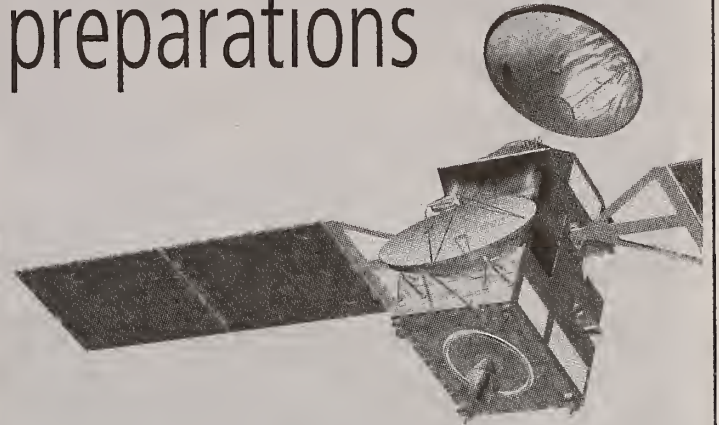
After completing the math test, the two groups performed another series of tasks designed to gauge their aggression levels, their ability to focus and to exercise self-control.

"In these followup tests, the women who felt discriminated against ate more than their peers in the control group. They showed more hostility than the control group. And they performed more poorly on tests that measured their cognitive skills," Inzlicht said.

The pattern remained the same, regardless of the test groups. People who felt they were discriminated against — whether based on gender, age, race or religion — all experienced significant impacts even after they were removed from the situation, said Inzlicht.

"These lingering effects hurt people in a very real way, leaving them at a disadvantage," he said. "Even many steps removed from a prejudicial situation, people are carrying around this baggage that negatively impacts their lives."

# U of T scientists join Mars mission preparations



NASA and the European Space Agency are jointly developing the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter mission for launch in 2016. This is an artist's concept of the planned spacecraft, which will carry five science instruments plus a European entry, descent and landing demonstrator vehicle. The orbiter will also serve as a communications relay for Mars surface missions.

BY SEAN BETTAM

An international team of scientists including several atmospheric and planetary researchers from U of T will develop an instrument to search for signs of life on Mars during the 2016 ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter NASA-European Space Agency mission.

The instrument, known as MATMOS (Mars Atmospheric Trace Molecule Occultation Spectrometer), will probe the atmosphere of Mars in search of biological sources of methane and consequently, signs of life.

"We are very excited to be part of this international team contributing to ExoMars," said team member **Barbara Sherwood Lollar**, a professor in geology. "MATMOS will build on the exciting reports of methane in the Mars atmosphere by investigating a suite of trace gases in the planet's atmosphere that will help develop models of the planet's geologic activity and address questions regarding any potential biogenic activity."

MATMOS will help scientists attempt to solve the mystery of methane on Mars by confirming seasonal distribution patterns and providing new interpretations of the origin of the gas on Mars.

Methane was discovered on Mars in 2003 in greater abundance than expected. It is a possible biomarker for signs of life, since the gas is readily produced by biological activity.

Selected by NASA and the European Space Agency for launch onboard the ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter (scheduled for launch in 2016), MATMOS is being developed in partnership

among the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Sherwood Lollar, fellow U of T scientist **Jonathan Abbott** of chemistry and **Kimberly Strong** and **Kaley Walker** of physics, along with a few other Canadian researchers, are contributing to CSA's effort.

"MATMOS will provide a fingerprint of the Mars atmosphere that will help unlock the mystery of Mars methane. The key is MATMOS' very high sensitivity. It will be able to measure the distribution of methane and other trace gases in the atmosphere with altitude and season — where and when they appear will provide clues to the surface and climate processes that produce them," said Victoria Hipkin, senior planetary scientist at CSA. "The potential for discovery is very exciting."

Canada's contribution will include the heart of the instrument: the critical subsystem of a detection instrument known as an interferometer; a solar imager; and optical components that will collect light for the entire instrument.

The MATMOS instrument will build on the expertise Canada has acquired from CSA's SCISAT mission, which has been using a similar technique and technology to study ozone depletion in Earth's atmosphere since 2003. CSA will fund the conceptual phase of the Canadian contribution to MATMOS and has selected ABB Bomem of Quebec City as the prime contractor for the Canadian elements (the same company that built elements of SCISAT's hardware).



# See you in September

The new academic year signals the advent of interesting new courses, programs and services

DIANA MCNALLY



Professor Greg Evans (left), Annie Simpson and Professor Doug Reeve are getting the new Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering off the ground.

## Shaping the engineers of tomorrow

BY KELLY RANKIN

**U of T** is leading the way in engineering leadership education at the post-secondary level.

The Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering launched the Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering (ILead) July 1; it's the first institute of its kind in Canada dedicated to leadership development in the field of engineering.

ILead's provenance dates back to 2001 when Professor **Doug Reeve** became chair of chemical engineering and applied chemistry.

"I thought we weren't doing enough for students, they needed more than just a technical education," he said.

"We needed to give them the personal skills and capabilities that will allow them to take their technical knowledge and transform it into action, to transform it into a contribution to the world."

To meet this challenge, his department established the Engineering Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) program in 2002 with the mandate to provide chemical engineering students with leadership education. In 2006, with \$1 million in funding from the provost's Academic Initiatives Fund, they launched the program faculty-wide. It offered students a trio of credit courses, as well as a couple of certificate programs to enhance their leadership skills.

In 2009, Professor **Cristina Amon**, dean of applied science and engineering, established a task force to review the advances made by LOT and to develop strategic plans for the future. The key

recommendation of the task force was to establish ILead and become a hallmark for leadership education in engineering. As a result, the leadership initiatives have now been institutionalized.

"Our vision is to infuse leadership skills across the curriculum wherever it is appropriate," said Reeve.

ILead starts the academic year off on a high note, thanks to a donation of \$1 million from an anonymous chemical engineering alumnus and his wife. The funds will be used to increase ILead's capacity to offer programming and advance leadership education for engineering students.

The institute has articulated four key areas that will help shape future programs: self-leadership, relational leadership, organizational leadership and societal leadership. Reeve, ILead director, said leadership learning must be a part of engineering education in order for students to use their technical knowledge more effectively when they graduate.

"They will work in teams and organizations. The question is will they be effective? Will they make the kind of contributions their intelligence and training would otherwise allow them?"

Assisting Reeve in the direction of ILead are Professor **Greg Evans**, associate director, and **Annie Simpson**, assistant director. The LOT program will be subsumed by ILead and plans to add two additional certificate programs to its portfolio.

What does the future hold? "I can envision a minor in leadership," said Reeve.

## U of T Bookstore bringing **better** value, service to students

BY KELLY RANKIN

**You asked** and the U of T Bookstore listened.

Last September, **Chad Saunders**, vice-president of the University of Toronto Press and Bookstore, and his team conducted a set of tri-campus surveys to better understand the needs of students and to determine whether or not the university's bookstores were living up to their expectations.

The main message students sent to the bookstore? They want better value.

"The whole purpose of the surveys was not just to learn but to learn and do something about it," Saunders said. "It's a whole new era for the campus bookstores. We're embracing innovation, we have to give the best service."

The surveys revealed that 81 per cent of respondents wanted to see more used books on the shelves and that 66 per cent considered textbook rentals an important service.

The bookstore responded quickly, doubling the used book inventory for the summer term, with an even more dramatic increase planned for this September. "Our used books are priced 25 per cent below the price of new books, so it's a great way for students to save money," said Saunders.

This fall, students on all three campuses will also have the option to rent textbooks and save as much as 40 per cent on some titles. The textbook rental program is an online service offered through bookstore's website. Students choose their textbooks from



Customer input helps the U of T Bookstore's **Chad Saunders** improve service.

the list of available titles, read the contract, complete payment information, then pick up the textbooks at their campus bookstore.

Also new to the bookstore this year is an on-demand printing service called Books-on-Demand. Students will have access to a database containing four million titles they can order for on-demand printing. The database

contains public domain, open content and in-copyright books and the bookstore is partnering with U of T Libraries to make their digital collection available for on-demand printing as well.

Students can access Books-on-Demand through the bookstore's website or the online library catalogue.

Saunders said the cost to print the library titles will be five cents per page with a \$10 minimum. The cost for the other titles will vary depending on book length and royalties.

Other changes students can expect are cellphone kiosks in the

bookstores and a newly renovated computer shop on the St. George campus. Students can also reap substantial savings by taking advantage of university rates for Bell Mobility plans and educational pricing on software and computers.

"Students tend to think of the bookstores as a place to buy textbooks or a sweatshirt," Saunders said. But if he has his way, they will come to rely on it for a whole lot more.

"We're embracing innovation, we have to give the best service."

- Chad Saunders

JOHNNY GUATTO



# Stargazing, 2010-style

The Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics' new teaching planetarium will shine a light on celestial landscapes past and present, as Professor Ray Carlberg demonstrates.

BY JENNIFER LANTHIER

**William Shakespeare** once deemed the night sky “painted with unnumbered sparks; they are all fire and every one doth shine.”

But U of T's new state-of-the-art teaching planetarium means thousands of students can now experience the skies over Elizabethan England for themselves. Or even compare today's constellations with those Australopithecus saw.

“We've come a long way from the star balls of the old planetaria,” said Professor **Ray Carlberg**, associate chair (undergraduate) at astronomy and astrophysics.

This planetarium's sophisticated technology will allow faculty and students to use it as a sort of time machine, travelling through the past and into the future to view the changing constellations, along with simulations of colliding galaxies or the formation of planets. Carlberg, who has peered through the four-metre telescope in Mauna Kea, Hawaii, and likens it to “looking into a sugar bowl — it's so white and so full of jillions of stars” — said the new planetarium will allow students to see that kind of detail with the naked eye.

“The beauty of the digital age is that you can point to a faint smudge and say, Let's go look at that, and then just fly out to those stars and see them close up,” said Carlberg. “It's an extraordinary teaching tool.”

For the 1,300 undergraduates sharing a classroom, the 25-seat planetarium will open the doors to more hands-on learning, said Professor **Peter Martin**, former chair of the department and a professor at the Canadian Institute for Theoretical Physics.

Although its database includes prepared programs designed for professional organizations such as the Hayden Planetarium or American Museum of Natural History, graduate and even senior undergraduate students can create their own programs using a standard video game controller. Demonstrating the effect of light pollution or how an eclipse occurs could be just the beginning.

“Figuring out how to use it as a

teaching tool will be part of the fun and the challenge,” said Martin. “And for our graduate students, who put on a very successful tour and lecture for the public each month, this could be a very useful part of that outreach.”

One of the scholars giving those tours is PhD student **Bryce Croll**. The Faculty of Arts and Science's Curriculum Renewal Initiatives Fund and the Dunlap Institute for

Astronomy and Astrophysics provided the bulk of the funding, but Croll was recently awarded a SEED grant by the Astronomical Society of the Pacific to offset some of the outreach costs associated with the planetarium.

“This allows you to show people what a solar eclipse would be like, or what an object would look like through a telescope or if you could travel there, and to do it in a

visually impressive way that will resonate with students or children or the general public,” Croll said. “It's just such a powerful tool.”

Demand for the planetarium is likely to far exceed its availability, given its capabilities.

“It's essentially an immersive theatre that is a compelling way to present 3D information and change with time. For instance the geography of Toronto over time,” said Carlberg.

## Undergrads to learn about sex, drugs and rock and roll

BY KELLY RANKIN

**The title** is enough to make a parent do a double-take. For the first time at U of T undergraduate students will be offered a course in Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll.

Lest anyone think the work of Timothy Leary is being resurrected at U of T, not to worry. The course title is meant to pique the interest of undergraduates with a non-science background, while providing a general reference to the areas of study to be covered in this first-year organic chemistry course.

“If you think about it, organic chemistry is a pretty dry title. I wanted to jazz it up a bit, make it a bit more fun,” explained Professor **Robert Batey**, associate chair of undergraduate studies in chemistry.

The course aims to introduce the concepts of science to non-science students through organic chemistry. “I think organic chemistry is a really important area for everyday life. It impacts everything we do, from household products, flavours and fragrances to sex — things like contraception and pheromones,” said Batey.

In addition to the chemistry of contraception and pheromones — the sex topics covered by the course — Batey said students will also be

introduced to the role of organic chemistry in pharmaceutical development.

“I think it's an area misunderstood in terms of the process as well as some of the benefits of pharmaceuticals.



Professor Robert Batey of chemistry

“They don't solve every problem and I think people need to be aware of that limitation,” Batey explained.

Rock and roll, as the phrase implies, will investigate narcotics and hallucinogens by looking briefly at musicians, artists and other pop culture references to explore what effects these substances had on users

and the impact they had on culture in general. For example, what role, if any, did absinthe play in the work of purported users Ernest Hemingway and Vincent Van Gogh?

The course will also examine the role of organic chemistry in other areas as well, such as the chemistry of food, chemical and explosive weapons and natural toxins.

Students will be introduced to these topics through discussion about items such as chocolate, synthetic dyes, the formation of dioxin — more commonly referred to as Agent Orange — and the chemical defences of marine sponges.

Batey said students will come away from this course with an understanding of the basic logic behind molecular structures and how they form. He added, “Students will learn what a molecule is, how you go from an atom to a molecule and what a Legó-like set of rules means to the construction of molecules.”

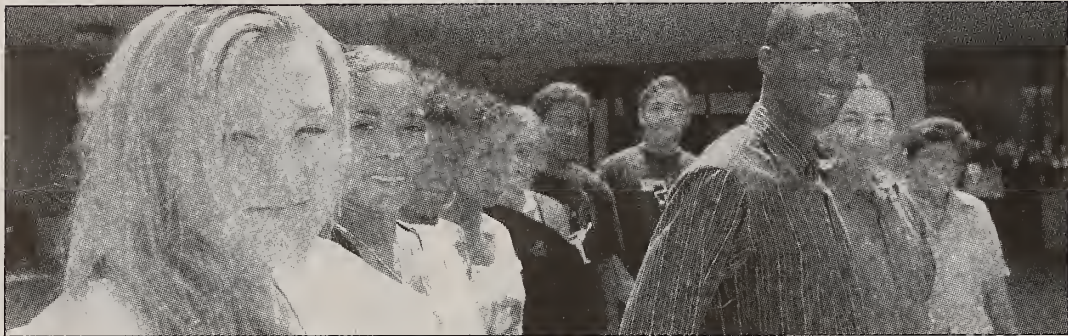
He hopes that students will come to appreciate the scientific process and how important organic chemistry is in their lives, affecting mundane things like household cleaning products and very exotic things such as a toxic compound on the skin of an Amazonian frog.

“Really, nothing is untouched by chemistry,” said Batey.



# U of T mentors inspire teens

CAZ ZWATKAUSKAS



Summer mentorship program participants included high school student Sarah Stevens (left), co-ordinator Joseph Acquaye (third from right) and program co-founder Diana Alli (right).

BY JENNIFER LANTHIER

**This summer**, while their friends hung out at the beach or the mall, Walter Byrne learned how to give stitches and Sarah Stevens fell in love with internal medicine.

"I didn't even know what internal medicine was, but now I know that's exactly what I want to do," said Stevens, 17. "You should have seen the patients' smiles when that doctor walked into the room."

Stevens and Byrne were among 42 students taking part in the summer mentorship program, which offers a select group of promising high school students a month-long immersion in the world of post-secondary education. Geared to aboriginal and African-Canadian students who are under-represented in higher education, the program has enrolled nearly 400 students since it began in 1994, said co-founder **Diana Alli**, a senior officer at the Faculty of Medicine.

"Ninety-nine per cent of our grads have moved on to post-secondary education," said Alli. "We're still working with the one per cent."

Students earn a high school credit for work that includes shadowing healthcare

professionals in hospitals, clinics and research laboratories and taking part in simulation labs in dentistry and nursing.

"I liked the placements at the hospitals because it was a chance to be with people who are where you want to be," said Aaron Andrews, 17. "But the big surprise was dentistry. There's a lot more to it than you'd think."

Aimed at demystifying the world of higher education, the program also offers lectures and workshops on practical topics such as memorization and presentation, as well as advice on how to navigate the university admissions process or apply for loans and scholarships.

"I would consider being a dentist now and that's not something I ever would have considered before," said Byrne. "I look forward to coming back when I am working in my own field of medicine, whatever I choose to pursue, to help inspire students the way that I was inspired."

That's an attitude Alli has worked hard to encourage over the years. She pointed out that Seneca College professor and counsellor Cheryl Mitri was a single parent and former high school dropout when she enrolled in the program 13 years ago. Chiropractor Joel Kerr was a teenager headed in the

wrong direction. Both return often to volunteer.

"Cheryl Mitri was really inspiring," said Celine Harris, 16. "When I get back to school this fall, I'm going to change a lot of my courses back to science."

The importance of role models can't be underestimated, said **Joseph Acquaye**, one of the student co-ordinators of this summer's program and another success story. Advised by his high school to consider studying a trade, Acquaye took part in the program in 2005.

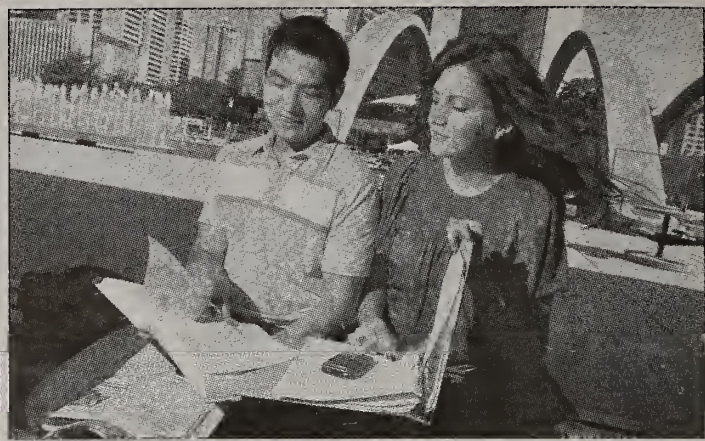
Kerr was one of the speakers that summer.

"I told them that if it wasn't for this program I wouldn't be in the profession I'm in," Kerr said. "All I did was talk to them but it turns out that really inspired Joseph — he changed his life — and I'm so proud of him."

"That's how powerful this program is."

With no parent or siblings who had attended university, Acquaye said he found a role model in Kerr.

"I could see myself in him and I thought if he could do it, I could too," said Acquaye, who just completed his undergraduate degree at the Faculty of Physical Education and Health with high honours and is planning a career in medicine.



HENRY FEATHER

Students Alexander Lee and Dejana Bajic, Q-me developers, wait to be paged at Toronto City Hall.

## Students attempt to erase lines

BY SEAN BETTAM

**If you've ever** had to wait in line to take care of some business at City Hall — fight a parking ticket, apply for a business licence, renew a building permit, etc. — you'll know that you sometimes have to clear an entire day just to take care of one simple thing. To relieve the frustration that can build as the minutes waiting in line turn to hours, a group of computer science students did the traditional take-a-number system one better and developed Q-me, a tool that would allow you to leave the waiting room — or not even show up in the first place — until you reach the front of the queue and a city services clerk is ready to help you.

"I wanted to develop something that is applicable to everyday life," said **Alexander Lee**, who developed the idea in his last course before completing his undergraduate studies. "In so many places, lining up for something can become a real problem — the time wasted, the cost of parking while waiting in line — and a real source of frustration for people, especially if they have to do it on a regular basis."

Q-me will allow anyone with a mobile phone to join a virtual lineup by providing their telephone number and then later receive a text message with notification when he or she is nearing the front of the line. Individuals can instead spend this waiting time productively by doing other work or maybe just reading or having a cup of coffee somewhere nearby.

Lee and first-year master's students **Dejana Bajic**, **Akhil Mathur** and **Tyler de Witt** developed Q-me for their joint undergraduate-graduate course in software design and engineering, which requires teams of students to identify and solve a substantial problem spanning several areas of computer science. Bajic said she was attracted to the idea immediately on first hearing Lee's description. "I really liked the fact that it could be easily explained in one sentence," she said of the solution to the problem that Lee

had raised. "I wanted to solve a problem that affected a broad audience."

The focus and topics of the course change from year to year, with Government 2.0 being the theme for the most recent offering. The theme emerged out of a new initiative by the City of Toronto that makes municipal data and access to the operation of city programs and services available to anyone who requests it. Known as [toronto.ca/open](http://toronto.ca/open), the project offers an open catalogue of city data — ranging from apartment inspection reports to childcare availability to substantial amounts of map data that will enable a broad range of location-based applications — and invites the public to use the information and Web 2.0 technology to develop tools to change the way the city interacts with citizens, creates policies and makes decisions.

The team worked closely with several individuals at City Hall to put Q-me together, attending meetings with officials in various municipal departments and conducting interviews with customers in lineups at various locations. They were eventually able to build a demo of how the system would work in action, which can be viewed on the Q-me website.

"I was amazed at the amount of collaboration required in order to accomplish something of this size in such a short time," Lee said. "It was a thrill to take what we had learned and apply it in real life."

Bajic agreed. "The best part about the course was being able to work on a real project and talking with real customers." Though the tool is not in use at the moment, the basic concept and technical architecture are complete and could be customized based on a particular client's needs.

"Our system does not claim to decrease wait times," said Lee. "Instead, Q-me is a simple, cost-effective way to decrease the 'pain' of the time spent waiting, resulting in a shorter perceived wait time and ultimately happier customers."

So, who's first?



## LETTERS Privacy and superzealousness

**Until about** five years ago, the Faculty of Law produced an annual

confidential directory of the office location, home addresses and office and home phone numbers of faculty members. This system had been in place for as long as I have been a member of the faculty, which is for more than 35 years. To the best of my knowledge, none of the listed members objected to the directory including their home address and phone number. The information is useful if one wishes, or in case of emergency, may need, to contact a faculty member in the evening or at week-ends.

Apparently the privacy office on campus decided that including the home information involved an invasion of the member's privacy. Since then, faculty members have been required to give their active consents to the inclusion of the home information. Not surprisingly, few do — not because they wish to safeguard the information but because they can't be bothered to fill out the necessary form. More recently, the screw has been turned still

more tightly: now the consent form has to be signed in person by the consenting members.

The results were predictable. The annual directory is filled with huge gaps and contains few home addresses and/or phone numbers. It's not clear why faculty members are even being asked to volunteer the information when the results are so feeble.

In my view, this was a solution in search of a problem. If the administration wishes to address a genuine problem I suggest they address the acute problem of visual pollution on and adjacent to the downtown campus. There is scarcely a utility pole or parking meter on Hoskins Avenue or St. George Street that is not smothered in layers of posters and flyers of every conceivable description. In my experience, the problem is worse at U of T than at other campuses and, I am sorry to say, appears to be totally ignored by the administration.

JACOB ZIEGEL  
FACULTY OF LAW

*Editor's Note: Consent to share personal information is required by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*



## HE SAID SHE SAID

## THE POWER OF THE PEN

BY PAUL FRAUMENI

**I recently watched** *2001: A Space Odyssey* again. Any film buff my age (i.e., north of 50) will remember the phenomenon this movie created when it premiered in 1968. I'm pleased to say that, 42 years later, 2001 is still as freaky, pleasantly confusing and mind-blowing as ever.

But there is one ironic scene that gave me a chuckle. It takes place in an aircraft that is flying people to a space station. The inside of the aircraft looks like that of a standard airplane. But there isn't any gravity. So the stewardess has to walk with weights on her shoes. A passenger stays in his seat by way of a seatbelt, but he falls asleep and his pen floats in the air.

Think about that. A pen. This is a movie that explodes with imagination about the future of technology. We see what we call today the webcam and something eerily similar to the iPad. And, of course, they came up with the infamous computer, HAL, that was so advanced, it even had emotions.

But, despite all that technology, the characters still use pens.

So, long live the pen. Some things will never be replaced.

A good pen is important to me. A bad pen can ruin my day. What constitutes a bad one? Let's start with "fine point." It scratches the paper. A medium point caresses the paper and rolls over the surface. It's like riding in a really expensive car with great suspension.

Ink colour? Anything but red. You know how, when you're planning the names for your children-yet-to-be, a name will be suggested and you'll say, "Oh, not that one. That was the name of a girl (or guy) who dumped me in Grade 12." Same with me and red pens. I used to work with a woman who just annoyed me to no end. She always used a red pen. Even today, 27 years later, when

I see red ink, I start to froth at the mouth.

As for the pen body, no pocket clips, please. I can feel the clip on the inside of my thumb when I'm writing. It upsets the manoeuvrability of the pen. And the clip can give you a blister. I don't like blisters. I got a blister from a pen clip in Grade 8 and it kept me out of three ball games.

And no caps. A cap on the other end of the pen makes the whole thing tall to the point where it is practically poking you in the eye. I have a bugaboo about being poked in the eye. I'd rather have a blister.

As for the brand, I don't care. But, man, I have this pen now called a Papermate Profile 1.4B. This is a lovely one, a pillar of innovation in the sphere of throwaway pens.

I don't know where I got it. It just appeared on my desk one day. I must have picked it up when meeting with someone and I didn't have a pen and I "borrowed" theirs. Full disclosure — I'm so keen on finding the perfect pen that if someone loans me one and I like it, I'll try to keep it. I'm a pen kleptomaniac. Actually, a former colleague got so tired of me lifting her pens that she took to putting her name on them.

So, if I'm ever with you and I ask to borrow a pen, do yourself a favour and offer me a fine point red pen with a pocket clip and cap on it and I'll definitely give it back to you.

Because you've got to have standards.

That old saying is true — "If you don't stand for something, then you'll fall for anything."

Even with pens.

*Paul Fraumeni is the director of communications for the office of the vice-president (research). He shares this space with Caz Zvyatkauskas.*

U of T  
volunteers

BY JENNIFER LANTHIER

**On campus,** Professor **Shafique Virani** is known for his teaching and scholarship on Islam. But in the mountains of al-Khawabi in Syria, he's known for the summer camp he founded, and, in East Africa, for his work with pre-schools in disadvantaged communities.

"Volunteering is fun — you're always laughing with and learning from your colleagues — they love life," said Virani.

A former boy scout, Virani always saw volunteering as something you just do. He remembers growing up in blustery Winnipeg where neighbours regularly shovelled snowy driveways for each other.

"My parents were volunteers and as a kid, my favourite teachers were the ones who led clubs on their own time, coached sports or ran the school newspaper."

In 2004, when Virani was head of world humanities at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates, a friend asked him to speak to young campers about careers.

"I was supposed to go in and talk for an hour," Virani recalled, "but I didn't leave for three days — literally. I slept there."

The experience was so inspiring, that very summer Virani founded a residential camp for teenagers in Syria. In the first year, he was set on financing the camp himself but then two of his fellow counsellors, also volunteers, wanted to pitch in, so they all got together and donated what they could. Word soon spread and the local community came together, providing materials and services at cost or for free.

"A friend of mine was an architect who had worked on the restoration of Saladin's

## Volunteer had excellent role models



Professor Shafique Virani of religion and history volunteers at pre-schools in East Africa.

castle, so he arranged a tour for us," Virani said. "You should have seen the kids' faces when he showed us what looked like an air vent but was in fact an opening to pour boiling oil down on anyone who attacked."

In addition to the summer camp, Virani volunteers with the Madrasa Resource Centres of East Africa, a pre-school initiative launched 25 years ago. It administers more than 200 pre-schools in slums and underprivileged areas of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zanzibar.

"We work with communities to make sure the pre-schools are firmly rooted in the local culture but also use best practices of early childhood development." The centres help develop such things as safe play areas and nutritious meal programs, along with a curriculum that fosters critical thinking and draws on the talents of local women and men.

"A mother who happens to be literate may read stories to the children as part of her volunteer contribution," he said. "The children gain a role model and the mother feels empowered."

Virani explained that pluralism and tolerance are the hallmarks of every pre-school, with the benefits extending beyond the classroom walls.

A vibrant community forms around the school and other projects take off. People begin to work together for clean water or to improve the roads. He recalled, "When the post-election riots broke out in Kenya, we were concerned, but not a single one of our communities was affected — if you're working with your neighbours to build a better future, you won't turn against them simply because they belong to a different tribe."

Virani also encourages his U of T students to volunteer and to share their knowledge. He's proud that many undergraduates from his Research Opportunity Program team return to help mentor new students.

"You realize that you're just a tiny drop in the ocean, but also that an ocean is made up of tiny drops," Virani said. "It's humbling that our individual contributions are so small, but when we all work together we can have a huge impact."

COURTESY OF SHAFIQUE VIRANI

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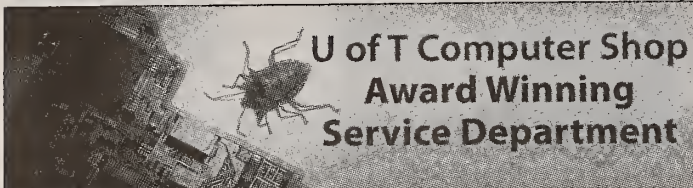


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#### Miscellany

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## SEMINARS

### A Peaceful Europe? Reinterpreting 20th European History.

**Friday, September 10**

Holger Nehring, lecturer, University of Sheffield. 108N Munk School of Global Affairs. 5 to 7 p.m. Registration: [www.munkschool.utoronto.ca](http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca). *Joint Initiative in German & European Studies*

### 'A Man of His Time': Maurice Papon (1910-2007), Symbol of State Violence in 20th-Century France?

**Tuesday, September 14**

Prof. Marc Olivier Baruch, Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris. 208N Munk Centre of Global Affairs. 4 to 6 p.m. Registration: [www.munkschool.utoronto.ca](http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca). *Joint Initiative in German & European Studies*

## MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

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### Memorial for Professor Myron Gordon.

**Saturday, September 11**

Professor Myron Gordon died at the beginning of July. Gordon had been a member of the Rotman School of Management community since 1970 and his many friends and admirers at the school remember him for his towering scholarly reputation, his gregarious personality and his concern for the community. CIBC Room, Rotman School of Management, 105 St. George St. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. RSVP: [www.rotman.utoronto.ca/sept11](http://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/sept11) or 416-946-7462.

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# THE CONSCIENCE OF CANADA

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT REFLECTS ON THE LEGACY OF

BY IAN HACKING

**I am delighted** and honoured that I am graduating with this year's class from Woodsworth College, and that for two different reasons, both specific and unique to the college.

First, because part of the original remit of the college was to provide a home for, to use the technical term, mature students. In the past decade the mission of the college has been expanded but it still serves significantly more older students than other colleges at the University of Toronto.

To tell the truth, I hope that all of you are "immature" and will stay immature for the rest of your lives. But in the technical sense, many of you are older than members of other classes graduating this year, because a condition of admission to the college was that you should have started your university career somewhat later than other students; for many of you, it is much later. Hence I have a special kind of respect for that part of the graduating class.

Why?

Because I had it easy. Although, or maybe because, my parents never made it through high school, they had immense respect for book learning. So I was off to a flying start and in fact graduated from the University of British Columbia at an age when I would not even have been admitted to Woodsworth, under its original rules. Hence I know how easy it is to learn when one is young.

And now? Well over the years I have increasingly come to know that it gets harder and harder. Every year, it feels to me, doubles the difficulty of learning anything. Yes one can continue to learn, and I know that all of you will. One can indeed go on learning till one's last day. But it does get harder. Hence I respect "mature" students in a special way, although of course I also respect all of you for your achievements.

I said there are two reasons that I am proud to be here, and which are specific to the college. The second is connected with its namesake, James Shaver Woodsworth, 1874-1942, Methodist minister, social worker, social democratic politician and pacifist. His dates make it sound as if he lived in Canadian pre-history. Perhaps most of you are familiar with what he did for Canada but I think it is worthwhile to recall these things at ceremonial occasions such as the present. He had a reputation as the "conscience of Canada."

Probably some families here today hope that their family member who is graduating will go on to make some millions of dollars, soon. Who would not hope for that? Certainly it would help pay down the mortgage. But I would pray some of you to hope that

someday your graduate will be known as a conscience of Canada. You have heard that I have won some academic medals and prizes and indeed this honorary doctorate (for which, unlike you and your degree, I did not have to lift a finger). But all those honours, for which of course I am grateful, are as absolute dust compared with the honour conferred on J. S. Woodsworth by that reputation, "the conscience of Canada."

It is not just an epithet. He made a delicate parliamentary deal with the then prime minister Mackenzie King, which obliged the government to enact Canada's first and fundamental piece of social legislation, an old age pension plan, 1927. It is so taken for granted today that we forget that

it was the cornerstone of our social net. Yesterday in Charlottetown, Jim Flaherty, the finance minister said, "We have a Canada Pension Plan that is the envy of the world." I am not sure that is true but it is a nice thought.

We now tend to identify, as Canadians, as having a health plan, such as OHIP here in Ontario, in fairly good working order and available to every Canadian. Woodsworth, of course, never lived to see the day but the movement he started was responsible for such a plan being introduced, first in Saskatchewan and then across the country. The conscience of Canada was not just a sit-at-home conscience.

But I would like to say a word about a topic people do not much talk about nowadays, even though we are at war.

I mean his pacifism. I have probably known many more pacifists than most of you and I think they are a pretty good lot, even though I have never joined them. But Woodsworth was something special. He was fired from his government job during the First World War and indeed resigned from his ministry because his church supported that long-ago war. But it was in 1939 that he was at his most remarkable. He was the only member of the House of Commons who voted against Canada joining up in World War II. I would like to quote his words in the House:

"I rejoice that it is possible to say these things in a Canadian parliament ... It would not be possible in Germany, I recognize that ... and I want to maintain the very essence of our British institutions of real liberty. I believe that the only way to do it is by an appeal to the moral forces which are still resident among our people, and not by another resort to brute force."

You may well feel that he was completely wrong, but I hope that you can be proud to be members of a college named after such an idealist.

I shall conclude by quoting another idealist, who died in March at the age of 96 — which makes him almost pre-history himself. His name was Michael Foot; he was a radical British politician of essentially the same party as J. S. Woodsworth. At an election rally — an election that neither he nor his party won — he spoke these words. I do not quote them because I want you to favour his politics but because I encourage you to reflect on his ideals:

"We are not here in this world to find elegant solutions, pregnant with initiative, or to serve the ways and modes of profitable progress. No, we are here to provide for all those who are weaker and hungrier, more battered and crippled than ourselves. That is our only certain good and great purpose on earth, and if you ask me about those insoluble economic problems that may arise if the top is deprived of their initiative, I would answer, 'To hell with them.' The top is greedy and mean and will always find a way to take care of themselves. They always do."

Many would say that his economic policies were completely wrong-headed. I am sure this is especially true of those of you who have studied economics here at U of T. But I would like you, in a quiet moment in the next few days, to reflect on what we are here in this world to do and to find a way to share some of the ideals of these idealists.

*Ian Hacking is a University Professor Emeritus of philosophy and the 2009 recipient of the Holberg International Memorial Prize.*

MARLENA ZUBER

